

Astounding Showing Of Utah Mines

YOU don't believe in charms?

Well, here is one that worked.

Last year, you remember, folks were wishing that mining would pick up. To make the wish good they touched Cottonwood. And mining did pick up. It picked up so fast and so effectively that little old 1915 found two bonanzas and at least four other flourishing mines where 1914 could see only some lopsided prospects.

Nineteen-fifteen has been full of rude shocks to the standpatters in the mining business. It wasn't the bold adventures of the earlier years, now rich and conservative business men, who gave the mining industry its upward impulse this time.

No one scans securities more closely or talks more chestily of the indecency of mining promotion than some of the fellows who owe all they have to the chances they, or their ancestors, have taken in the mining industry.

But why speak ill of the dead when there are live ones to knock?

Let's talk about the guys who started the excitement in the Cottonwoods and disturbed the slumbers of the Rip Van Winkles in their upholstered offices. They are suspected of manipulating the stock market, of spending thousands of dollars extolling the merits of Utah mines, of baring to the gaze of the vulgar herd the bonanzas which had long been concealed from public view.

It is an undisputed fact that the latest revival of mining activity in the Alta-Cottonwood mining field, which is by far the most interesting chapter in the mining history of 1915, began with a speculative spree. Some money was lost in playing the market, but the froth soon blew away. Where dimes were lost in speculation, dollars of legitimate profits have been made; for every share of stock sold above its intrinsic value dozens of shares have been purchased below, as has been shown by later developments, their real worth and it is by no means certain that the wildest of the so-called "wildcats" will not prove eventually the real ermine.

It is too early to see the Cottonwood strikes of 1915 in the right perspective. The situation is similar to that in Tintic between 1906 and 1909, when the Beck Tunnel, Colorado, Sioux and Iron Blossom entered upon their wonderful careers, but there is this difference: The East Tintic bonanzas were picked up one after another on the same ore channel, whereas four of the Cottonwood discoveries are on different veins, each one of which may have its string of profitable mines.

There is not a mining location from Big Cottonwood creek to American Fork; from Mineral fork to Lake Solitude, that has not gained at least 50 per cent in speculative value by reason of the ore exposures in the Cardiff, South Hecla, Sells, Maxfield and Albion.

So widely are the strikes scattered that they color the whole landscape with the golden glow of promised riches. They have given such an impetus to prospecting that development will continue by its own momentum for years.

Judging from present indications the Cottonwood shares will be the dominant features of the mining stock market during the coming year and many sensational mineral discoveries will keep them vividly before the public.

When one says "Cottonwoods" he means American Fork as well. American Fork, Alta and Big Cottonwood are, geologically speaking, parts of the same district. The division is only geographical.

A year ago this territory was not yielding more than 1,000 tons of ore a month. The Cardiff had just made its big strike. The South Hecla and Cardiff were the only mines in the Cottonwoods that could see ore a month ahead of their noses. The greater part of the ground was idle.

Today the monthly rate of production is about 10,000 tons worth approximately \$250,000. The Maxfield, Cardiff, South Hecla, Sells, Albion, Michigan-Utah and Pacific are on the shipping list. Occasional shipments are being made by the Alta Consolidated, Wasatch Mines, Prince of Wales, Emma Copper, Woodlawn and others. At least thirty properties are in operation in spite of cold, snow and other handicaps incidental to the season.

One mine, the Cardiff, is paying dividends at the rate of \$1 per share annually. The South Hecla is accumulating a dividend fund. The Sells has demonstrated its ability to pay dividends in the near future. The best judges of mine conditions predict that no less than six properties will be disbursing profits by the close of the coming year.

Strong interests have taken hold of several properties in American Fork canyon and the development being carried on at depth promises to show remarkable results. The great profits from surface operations proved conclusively that the mineralizing fissures were rich and productive. The district has been retarded by the lack of capital and this difficulty is now being overcome. The Pacific Mining company has commenced regular shipments and the Texan is rapidly nearing the producing stage.

Nineteen-sixteen will be a period of extraordinary activity at Park City. More progress will be made in the opening of new ground than has been witnessed in the last decade. A vast area to the northwest is to be tapped by the Silver King Consolidated through a deep tunnel. The promising Bonanza flat section to the south will be similarly developed by the Snake Creek Tunnel company and the Daly-Judge Mining company. The old Ontario mine, long known as the "greatest silver mine in the world," is about to operate on a larger scale than for ten years past. The Daly West is running its new mill close to capacity and making money again.

Oil flotation plants, which will increase the saving of metals and reduce treatment charges are being put in by the Silver King Coalition and the Daly-Judge companies. A reduction plant will be erected by the Silver King Consolidated. Operations have been resumed at the Naildriver and a new company is about to take over the New York Bonanza and start work on that property.

Three Park City companies have paid \$1,304,000 in dividends in 1915 and 1916 has not been exceptionally good for silver and lead either. The better prices which seem likely to prevail during the next twelve months should mean not only a large increase in production and in dividends, but in dividend-payers as well.

Shares in the Park City companies are pre-eminently investment securities. The stability of their prices tends to make them unpopular with the speculating fraternity, but appeals strongly to the class which has surplus money to place, but cannot afford to take the risks involved in the purchase of prospects and immature mines.

"Bingham!"

The mere word conjures up visions of copper piled mountain high, exhaustless dividends and almost unlimited possibilities for the future.

There is no occasion to dwell on the riches of Utah Copper. It was so nearly an ideal mine at the beginning of the year that there was small room for improvement. The only change needed to add to its prosperity was a higher price for copper and this has come in greater measure than anyone even hoped twelve months back.

But lest we forget it might be well to mention that at the last regular meeting of the Utah Copper directors the dividend rate was boosted to \$1.50 per share. "Twenty-cent copper," some will say, but don't forget the fact that Utah Copper is

one of the very few mines in the world that is producing the red metal at a cost of about 7 cents a pound. And keep in mind the fact that the metallurgical sharks in the employ of the company are now engaged in working out a process for the recovery of the potash contained in the ore.

They have millions of tons of this material already mined and milled and in excellent shape to be treated. When one looks over the many obstacles that those metallurgical "sharks" have overcome, one feels that it is better than fifty-fifty that Utah Copper will one bright morning make the announcement that it is now producing potash and that it has signed contracts for the delivery of its product for a considerable period.

A bonanza ore shoot, a heavy production, stock jumping skyward, money pouring into the treasury and Selah! Gloom in big gobs falls upon the busy scene. Work stops. A horde of engineers swarm over the hills. Rumors of law suits, apex litigation, et cetera, et cetera.

Come the more conservative heads from out of the eastern offices and the gloom begins to dissipate. A quiet meeting or two, an increase in the capitalization and we hear of a merger of the Utah Metals & Tunnel company with the Bingham-New Haven. Ore shipments are resumed, grins re-appear. But wait! Why the frightful frowns on the faces of those fellows looking on? Uh! They were the ones that went short on Utah Metals when it was around \$7 a share. It is now around \$10 and moving higher.

Enough!

As time runs on so does the ore production from Bingham continue apparently without any decrease and, strange as it may appear, with an increase from year to year.

New properties are being opened up. New ore bodies are being discovered. The activities in the district are spreading in the direction of Tooele. A dozen new outfits have men delving for the extensions of the known ore shoots.

Conservative estimates place the amount of wealth that Bingham has given to the world at \$225,000,000. There are at present operating in the district about forty companies. The tonnage from the district for 1915 will be close to the 10,000,000 mark.

Tintic is entering its greatest period of prosperity. It produces gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc ores. Up to the end of 1914 it had added to the wealth of the world \$154,166,221. They began mining ore in the Tintic district in 1869 and produced from that time to 1876 a total of \$2,900,238. What was regarded in 1877 as a real western hair-raising boom started and the camp's production for that year amounted to \$247,019.

The boom continued and by 1890 the annual production had reached \$5,126,238. Still they were not satisfied. They went right on digging out more ore and the annual production of 1900 reached \$7,167,551. The most prosperous year from that time was in 1912, when the output of the camp amounted to \$9,803,640. In 1914 it amounted to about \$6,000,000.

Metals were low. A number of the properties had a rather hard time in meeting expenses. Came the war, the rise in the metal prices and Tintic is today sending out a heavier tonnage than at any time in its history. Old companies have resumed operations, new companies have been organized, the district has been extended until it stretches away for miles and miles.

One hears of the activity in the North Tintic district, of the activity in the West Tintic district and Far East Tintic. And there is good reason to believe that all of these districts will repeat the history of Tintic proper.